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From Vulnerability to Resilience The Adaptation Continuum

Presentation to the Multi-stakeholders Partnership for
Disaster Risk Reduction From National to Local
2-3, December, 2008

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3RD AMCDRR
3RD ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



International Strategy
ISDR
for Disaster Reduction

Climate Change and Increasing Variability

Single largest threat to attainment of international goals of Sustainable Development and Disaster Risk Reduction

There are well reported spectaculars - European heat wave (2003), hurricane Katrina (2005) but it is the unreported incidences of flood, drought , heat-waves and storms that impact the poorest and most vulnerable that claim the most victims.

It is those communities that need to be an integral part of effective adaptation efforts



The Road to Copenhagen

Since the inception of UNFCCC adaptation has been the poor relation

On the Road to Bali it was increasingly realised that we would have to adapt - not just poor countries - but every country!

Climate change is already loaded into the atmosphere and it will happen!!

The need for adaptation as the vehicle for reducing the threat of nature is now accepted - the challenge is how



The Adaptation Problem

Many definitions .. within the climate community it is:-

Adaptation - Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities. Various types of adaptation can be distinguished, including anticipatory and reactive adaptation, private and public adaptation, and autonomous and planned adaptation (IPCC TAR, 2001)

But many still think of adaptation as an add-on or additional to...

And this definition gives no indication of the end-point!!



Conceptualising Adaptation

Adaptation should focus on resilience building at the community level:-

This is the first level of response

Adaptation should be an integral part of development not an add-on

Adaptation is part of a continuum

The Adaptation Continuum





Vulnerability to Adaptation

Identifying the Poor

Explaining Pre-Poor Livelihood "Insurance" Strategies

Giving Practical "Voice" (governance) to the Voiceless



Adaptation and Development

Adaptation that naturally builds livelihoods

Livelihoods built by entitlements focus

Development demonstrably achieved



Development to Resilience

Development built on local coping mechanisms

Coping mechanisms safeguarded

Social resilience - "Take the Punch" "Bounce Back and Beyond"

Thank You

Questions

